

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on January 9, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 3, 5-8, 12, 14-17, 21, and 23-26 are amended, claims 1, 2, 9-11, 18-20, and 27 are cancelled, and no new claims are added; as a result, claims 3-8, 12-17, and 21-26 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-27 were objected to because of various informalities, which have been corrected herein.

Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 18, 21-24, 26 and 27 were objected to as being dependent on objected claims. It is believed that these objections are now moot.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 2, 6, 11, 15, 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

Claims 2, 11, and 20 have been cancelled.

Claims 6, 11, and 24 referred to a population count instruction such as is described starting at p. 7, ln. 10, unintentionally duplicating the limitations of claims such as claim 4. These claims have been amended to correct reference to a leading bit count instruction, correcting any antecedent basis or claim dependency problems.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 18-20 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLellan et al. (US 5,568,415) in view of Priem et al. (US 6,446,186).

These claims have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 21-23, 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

They have been so rewritten. Allowance of claims 3-8, 12-17, and 21-26 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9581 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date

June 9 06

By

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Date of Deposit: June 9, 2006

This paper or fee is being filed on the date indicated above using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: The Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

CANDIS BUENDING

Name

Signature

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